

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 27, 2004 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-11 were pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,421 issued to Barker et al. ("*Barker*") and U.S. Patent No. 6,108,309 issued to Cohoe et al. ("*Cohoe*"). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the *Barker* reference is not prior art to Applicants' claims.

Applicants submit, concurrent with this response, an Affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 that establishes a date of invention prior to May 31, 1998. Therefore, Applicants respectfully contend that the *Barker* reference is no longer available to the Examiner to support a rejection of Claims 1-11. The Office Action relies upon *Barker* in rejecting all pending claims. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully contend that the rejection of Claims 1-11 is improper, and request allowance of Claims 1-11.

Conclusions

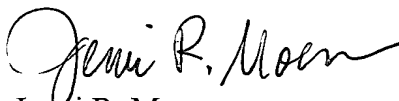
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants hereby take an Extension of Time for responding to the Examiner's Office Action dated September 27, 2004. A separate Notification of Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for two (2) months from December 27, 2004 to February 27, 2005 with a check in the amount of \$450.00 is enclosed herewith.

Applicants believe that no other fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of **Baker Botts L.L.P.**

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Jenni R. Moen
Reg. No. 52,038
PHONE: (214) 953-6809

Date: February 18, 2005

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

Customer Number: **05073**

Attorney Docket No.: 064731.0203